

House Resolution No. 2464

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives hold in high esteem those Show-Me State organizations which are dedicated to improving the quality of life found in local communities and neighborhoods; and

Whereas, the Central Missouri Autism Project is composed of many families, staff, and volunteers who devote an untold amount of time and energy to finding ways to improve the lives of children and adults diagnosed with autism; and

Whereas, an estimated 1.5 million Americans live with some form of autism, including more than 100,000 children served under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; and

Whereas, the federal Department of Education has collected data that indicate the number of children between the ages of six and twenty-one diagnosed with autism and served under IDEA has increased by more than five hundred percent in the last decade; and

Whereas, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education recently identified as autistic 3,393 children between the ages of three and twenty-one, an increase of more than one thousand percent from the 294 children identified in 1991; and

Whereas, the increase in autism spectrum disorder's prevalence across the entire United States is an urgent public health concern, with the frequency of autism spectrum disorders now surpassing that of all types of childhood cancer combined; and

Whereas, while autism is not a curable disorder, recent studies have shown that early intervention can have dramatic results for children which allow them to enjoy a productive and independent life; and

Whereas, limited insurance coverage or governmental assistance often means that families spend in excess of \$40,000 to \$70,000 a year for services for their autistic children:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-third General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the work, goals, and history of the Central Missouri Autism Project and to convey to all of those involved this legislative body's most heartfelt best wishes as they observe Autism Awareness during the month of April 2005; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of the Central Missouri Autism Project.

Offered by _____
Representative Mark J. Bruns
District No. 113

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Ninety-third General Assembly, First Regular Session, do
certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House
Resolution No. 2464, adopted April 25, 2005.

Rod Jetton, Speaker